



Mercer Island Girl Scout Basics 101

Over 30 troops and about 300 girls participate on Mercer Island. We are Service Unit 430.

- Girl Scouts of Mercer Island: www.mercerislandgirlscouts.org
- Girl Scouts of Mercer Island Facebook Group
- Girl Scouts of Western Washington: www.girlscoutsww.org
- Girl Scouts (national site): www.girlscouts.org
- Girl Scouts of Western Washington Store: 13029 NE 20th Street, Bellevue
- Kathy McDonald (MI Service Unit Manager): volunteer@mercerislandgirlscouts.org
- Kate Akyuz & Kathleen Wilson (MI Recruitment Coordinators)

Girl Scout Levels (when you move up to a level, it's called "Bridging". Colors are of uniforms.)

- Daisy (Blue- K & 1); Brownie (Brown - 2 & 3); Junior (Green - 4 & 5); Cadette (Tan – 6, 7, 8); Seniors (Tan – 9 & 10); Ambassador (Tan – 11 & 12)

What do Girl Scouts Do & Why is it a Great Activity for Your Daughter?

- Girl Scouts is low key, non-competitive, high-rewarding commitment for all families!
- Make friends by meeting regularly (usually once a month in someone's home or a community location like a church). Girls do not have to be from the same school.
- Learn and earn badges
- Sell cookies to earn money for their troop
- Go hiking and camping with other Girl Scouts on Mercer Island
- Learn songs and sing them constantly... 😊
- Do arts and crafts
- Volunteer in the community
- Juniors can earn "Bronze" awards; Cadettes can earn "Silver" awards; Seniors and Ambassadors can earn "Gold" awards
- Become part of a lasting tradition

As Girls get older (4th and 5th grade) they become leaders and mentors and teachers to the younger girls and it is simply magical...Middle School Scouts also have GNOMS (Girls Night Out for Middle Schoolers) monthly activities.

One of the best things about Girl Scouts of Western Washington are the Camps Sites that we have access to with lakes, rustic accommodations, trails, and history. We have two all MI Girl Scouts Encampments: Fall and Spring. Many troops do their own overnights as well.

Troops usually have 5 to 15 girls. Each troop has its own personality, but all follow a basic format. We will have a grade level groups and help all groups get off the ground. We also have a buddy troop system.

How do I set up a Troop?

- Two co-leaders and 5 girls to get set up.
- Treasurer, Cookie Manager
- Two models: Troop Leader or Co-Op Model.
- No set curriculum – Girl Led activities
- Troop leaders and volunteers do on-line training and background checks
- Troops decide when, where and how often to meet up
- Plan the year out, fill out forms, and start your troop

What does it cost? \$25 per child and \$25 per adult to register with Girl Scouts of Western Washington. \$69 for a uniform kit for Daisies and less after that. Some other activities like camping will have additional costs. Some troops collect nominal troop dues at the beginning.

How often do troops meet? Most troops meet only once a month and usually in a home or a location like a church for 1 hour.

MI Girl Scouts Yearly Calendar

- Troop Leader Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of each month at the same time and place Mercer Island Presbyterian Church 6:45-8:00 pm.
- September: Fall Encampment Overnight
- October/November: Juliette Gordon Lowe (founder of Girl Scouts) Birthday Party Ice Skating Event
- December: Brownies Making Brownies at MI Firehouse Munch
- December: Secret Santa Scouts
- January to March: Cookie Season – selling individually or site sales at grocery stores
- March: Gals and Pals (event for Daisies and Brownies) at Camp River Ranch
- March: Spring Songfest
- March/April: Spring Encampment Overnight
- June: All Island Bridging Ceremony